

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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City to Resurface Westheimer from Bagby to the West Loop *Work near west end shopping area to be completed before Thanksgiving*

The City of Houston Public Works and Engineering Department announced today that Westheimer will be resurfaced from Bagby to the West Loop as part of improvements to the area's streets in conjunction with the planned TxDOT improvements to Spur 527 into downtown. In resurfacing Westheimer, the uppermost surface of the street will be removed and new asphalt applied. Resurfacing is less expensive than reconstruction and increases the useful life of the street until it can be reconstructed.

The Public Works and Engineering Department has contracted with Angel Brothers Enterprises, Ltd. to resurface Westheimer at a cost of \$1.8 million. The contractor began removing and replacing damaged sections of concrete curb and gutter on September 30th. The resurfacing work is scheduled to begin November 11th, weather permitting, and is anticipated to be completed by the end of the year. The contractor will maintain at least one open lane of traffic in each direction while the work is being performed.

Public Works and Engineering Department managers met on October 22nd at the Upper Kirby District Center with residents and business owners from the area to gain their input on how to most conveniently schedule and manage the work. In response to the concerns voiced by citizens at the meeting, the decision was made by the Public Works and Engineering Department to limit the hours for the resurfacing work along the dense retail area between Wesleyan and the West Loop to 8:00 PM to 5:00 AM. Minor concrete curb and gutter replacement along with pavement repairs will be performed from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Weather permitting, resurfacing along this section is scheduled to begin November 18th and is anticipated to require approximately seven to ten days to complete. Additionally, the decision was made to limit the working hours of the section between Wesleyan and Bagby to 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM and 7:00 PM to 5:00 AM.

Teofilo Rebagay, a Senior Engineer with the Public Works and Engineering Department, commented, "We are thankful to Upper Kirby District for setting up the opportunity to meet with the neighborhood and business representatives. We are pleased to have worked together in developing a workable schedule for the contractor to work and also meet the traffic needs of the area for the upcoming holiday season."

Upper Kirby District President and Intown Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jamie Brewster stated, "We feel that this is only the beginning of an ongoing dialog with the City of Houston, which we are hopeful will make our Intown neighborhoods stronger in the future."

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